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C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 000177

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/MAG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/26/2019

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [IO](#) [MO](#)

SUBJECT: GOM SUPPORTIVE OF USG PARTICIPATION IN THE UN  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND POSTURE TOWARDS THE DURBAN REVIEW  
CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 18282

Classified By: A/PolCouns David O'Connor for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (SBU) On February 27, PolOff delivered reftel points to  
MFA Humanitarian and Social Affairs Director Abdelmounaim El  
Farouq (Note: The MFA's human rights point person. End  
Note.).

¶2. (C) El Farouq welcomed the Human Rights Council  
statement, adding that he had made just such a recommendation  
at a Near East, South Asia Center for Strategic Studies  
(NESA) seminar in 2007. He said the Government of Morocco  
(GOM) stood ready to work with the USG on the Council and  
explained that Morocco was willing to play a mediating role  
in moderating the stances of the "more extreme Arab  
countries" in the body. He strongly encouraged the USG to  
work with former MFA Secretary-General and current Moroccan  
Ambassador to Geneva Omar Hillale on Human Rights Council  
issues.

¶3. (C) On Durban, El Farouq accepted the points with little  
comment and reiterated his earlier statement that the GOM was  
ready to work with the USG to facilitate discussion and  
solutions.

¶4. (C) El Farouq closed by encouraging the USG to continue  
with its tone of "respect and partnership" in the UN context,  
saying that it would take time before the Arab world trusted  
in the sincerity of the USG's "new direction."

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Jackson